

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

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ORDINARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 1950, at 5.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 6th September, 1950.
2. Recommendations of candidates for Fellowship.
3. Announcement of election of new Fellows.
4. Additions to the Library.

Presented.

- Clay, Theresa, and Hopkins, G. H. E. *The early literature on Mallophaga. Part 1.* [*Bull. Brit. Mus. (nat. Hist.) Ent.* 1: 223-272, 1950.] [Miss Clay.]
- Costa Lima, A. da. *Insetos do Brasil. 6° Tomo. Lepidopteros 2a partie.* 8vo. Rio de Janeiro. 1950. [The Author.]
- Fennah, R. G. *A generic revision of ACHILIDAE (Homoptera: Fulgoroidea) with descriptions of new species.* [*Bull. Brit. Mus. (nat. Hist.) Ent.* 1: 1-170, 1950.] [The Author.]
- Harman, Ian. *Collecting butterflies and moths.* 8vo. London. 1950. [The Publishers.]
- Moreton, B. D. *Guide to British Insects.* 8vo. London. 1950. [The Publishers.]
- National Trust. *List of properties.* 8vo. London. 1950. [The Secretary, National Trust.]
- Risbec, Jean. *La faune entomologique des cultures au Sénégal et au Soudan français. Contribution à l'étude des, PROCTOTRUPIDAE.* [Travaux du Laboratoire d'Entomologie du Secteur soudanais de Recherches agro-nomiques, I and II.] 4to. [Dakar.] 1950. [Dr. W. J. Hall.]

Purchased.

- Ministry of Education. *Hand list of short titles of current periodicals in the Science Library.* 6th edn. 8vo. London. 1950.

In addition, separates were presented by Dr. E. M. Walker; Mr. G. H. E. Hopkins; United States Department of Agriculture; The American Entomological Society; Lt.-Col. F. C. Fraser; Professor G. D. Hale Carpenter; Mr. J. B. Corporaal; M. H. Stempffer; Mr. H. H. Patrick; and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Commonwealth of Australia.

5. Admission of Fellows.

6. Exhibits.

Fellows are particularly requested to bring suitable exhibits to the Meeting even though it may not be possible to announce their intention to do so beforehand.

Note.—To avoid congestion in the Library and to enable exhibits to be displayed to greater advantage, a table has been placed in the meeting-room for this purpose. Fellows are asked to place their exhibits on this table, with a suitable explanatory note, as soon as possible on the afternoon of the meeting, so that they are available for inspection there before the meeting opens.

7. Communications.

Mr. P. F. Mattingly.

The *Culex pipiens* complex and the species concept.

[ABSTRACT]

The *Culex pipiens* complex is a small group of Culicine mosquitoes of world-wide distribution. Until recently it has been regarded as comprising two comparatively well defined species, *Culex pipiens* Linnaeus and *Culex fatigans* Wiedemann, the former mainly holarctic in distribution, the latter cosmopolitan, and a somewhat loose agglomeration of urban, man-biting forms provisionally identified with *Culex molestus* Förskal. The discovery of forms intermediate between *pipiens* and *fatigans* over a large part of the southern United States and the production of hybrids in the laboratory has led to the suggestion that these are subspecies rather than fully differentiated species. The true status of the forms known collectively as *Culex molestus* and of others as yet unnamed, which resembled them, is obscure. An attempt is being made to approach the taxonomy of the group on a world basis and it is hoped that a discussion with workers on other groups may help to clarify the general problems involved. For the purpose of this discussion several entomologists working on the *pipiens* complex in different parts of the world have submitted communications on the problem as it presents itself in their particular regions. These will be summarized at the meeting. A discussion is invited as to the bearing of the special problems encountered on the general problem of defining the species in a manner acceptable both to the taxonomist and to the field-worker.

TEA will be served in the Library before the meeting.

A card index of Fellows' addresses arranged on a geographical basis is now available for the use of Fellows in the Society's Rooms. Addresses in Great Britain are grouped under counties; elsewhere under Dominions, Colonies, Foreign States, etc.

ADMISSION OF FELLOWS

Any Fellow who has not been formally admitted to the Society under Chapter XIV, Section 4 of the Bye-laws and attends the meeting on 4th October, 1950, is requested to inform the Secretary before 5.15 p.m. on that date.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1950.

Dr. B. P. UVAROV, C.M.G., F.R.S., member of Council, in the Chair.

Present 56 Fellows and 16 Visitors.

Dr. Uvarov extended a welcome to Dr. Lucien Berland, of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, Dr. Neal A. Weber, of Philadelphia, and Dr. J. M. McGraugh, of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 5th July were confirmed and signed by the acting President subject to the deletion of the name of Professor Carpenter from line 8 from the end and its insertion in line 6 from the end so that it read ". . . Mr. Riley enquired if any other Palaearctic genera occurred in these Highlands, and Dr. Scott mentioned the Small Copper and Professor Carpenter a subspecies of *Pieris brassicae*. . . ."

The names of the following candidates for election were read for the first time : P. S. Corbet, B.Sc., J. S. Harington, B.Sc., T. D. Mukerjea, B.Sc., Ph.D., R. O. M. Page, B. A. J. Nowosielski-Slepowron, B.Sc., E. C. G. Pinhey, Miss E. M. Rogers, B.Sc., and E. T. M. Reid, B.Sc.

For the second time (taken as read) : H. G. Acharya, M. Hassan Hassanein, B.Sc., M. G. Palmer, and J. A. Whellan, B.Sc.

The Secretary read the names of the following newly elected Fellows of the Society : H. E. Chipperfield, 27, Chilton Avenue, Stowmarket, Suffolk ; Shamsul Hussain Hazarika, M.Sc., M.S., Entomologist to the Government of East Bengal, Agricultural Experiment Station, Tejgaon, Dacca, Pakistan ; D. B. Lindsey, 37, Warren Road, Leyton, London, E.10 ; F. H. Lyon, Green Headland, Sampford Peverell, Tiverton, Devon ; J. E. A. Orian, A.C.R., 276, Royal Street, Rose Hill, Mauritius ; and Miss Z. Waloff, M.Sc., 16, Hollingbourne Gardens, London, W.13.

Thanks were voted to donors of gifts to the Library since the last meeting.

Mr. J. Bowden, Mr. W. A. C. Bullock, Mr. H. D. Morgan, Dr. G. Popov and Air Marshal Sir Robert Saundby signed the Obligation Book and were admitted Fellows of the Society.

Mr. H. Oldroyd gave an account of his visit to the Loiasis Research Scheme, Kumba, British Cameroons, an abstract of which appeared on p. 40. In concluding he expressed his gratitude to the Colonial Medical Research Council and to Professor R. M. Gordon for the valuable opportunity they had afforded him of seeing as a taxonomist this work in the field.

In the discussion which followed Mr. Oldroyd agreed, in reply to an enquiry by Mr. Kerrich, that in *Chrysops silacea* scent appeared to be a factor in selecting victims.

Mr. Ruttledge asked whether Mr. Oldroyd had seen any experimental feeding of *Chrysops silacea* by medical staff and he replied that there was no work of this sort going on while he was at Kumba, but he referred Mr. Ruttledge to similar work which had been carried out at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Mr. E. S. Brown commented on the possible similarity between the tree-top habits of *C. silacea* and those of male insects in this country, but Mr. Oldroyd pointed out that the male of *silacea* had not yet been caught in the field.

Dr. Richards enquired as to the density of larvae in breeding places and Mr. Oldroyd said that although the absolute figure was not known, the apparent density was high. The situation of the pupae was not known, nor had the eggs been found. In reply to an enquiry by Miss Longfield, he said the breeding places had not been visited at night in order to look for adults.

Dr. C. B. Williams mentioned that he had obtained Tabanids at a light trap in British Guiana, but Mr. Oldroyd said that, although he had received many African Tabanids taken at light, he had not succeeded in taking them in this way himself.

Dr. Uvarov said that the tree-top occurrence of these insects might be connected with light intensity, and not only elevation, whereupon Mr. Oldroyd remarked that there was some evidence that *silacea* was not at its most active in the brightest light. Dr. Uvarov suggested there might be an optimum light intensity within definite limits.

Mr. E. R. Speyer reported on the *Gladiolus* thrips, *Taeniothrips simplex*, recently introduced into this country, and now recorded from many large nurseries throughout Great Britain. A fuller account will be published later.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. C. B. Williams said he had obtained the species in Peru and Brazil four years ago. Mr. C. N. Hawkins said he had recently found *T. simplex* at Wimbledon, where, contrary to Mr. Speyer's experience, he had noticed that the adult was very active in warm sunshine, but not in dull weather. He had also noticed that the damage was not visible until the flower spike appeared, but he had been surprised to see mature larvae and adults at the same time. Mr. Speyer explained that there were many generations each year, which accounted for the abundance.

N. D. RILEY, *Hon. Secretary.*

The next meeting will be held on 1st November, at 5.30 p.m.